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Chicago Public Library
400 S. State Street
Chicago, IL 60605
ATTN: Hiring Manager

I am presently out of work and looking for a job. Since I have no job at the moment and have a lot of free time on my hands, I find myself reading a lot of books. I really enjoy storybooks.

This made me think... I'm not much of a salesman, but let me give you my sales pitch for why I am a good fit for a job at the Chicago Public Library. Like I said, I really love storybooks, which I am sure is a must for all employees at your library. I am willing to relocate and I have my own transportation to get to and from work.

I do not have a current resume, but I have a friend with a computer program that will allow me to create one to provide to you if necessary. I can also provide letters of reference from my high school drama coach and the manager at the Sack-and-Save grocery store.

I am not sure if you are hiring at the moment or what your budget is for new employees, but I thought of an excellent job for me and I think it will enhance the library experience for all of your patrons.

In a nutshell, here is my idea (not that it is nutty or anything, that's just an expression). Lots of libraries have electronic card catalogs these days where you can search for books at computer terminals in the library. My idea involves a special terminal where once a patron makes a specific selection, the system sends an alert to me in a separate adjacent room behind a large glass window concealed by a floor length curtain. Once I get the specific selection, I quickly change into an appropriate costume and open the window curtain. I would then act out a five minute scene from the book giving some hint toward the plot line, but without giving away any spoiler of the book's plot twists or ending. Based on that brief one man show, the patron would be able to decide if they really want to check out the book or not.

I call it the OneManShow (all one word), but if you like my idea and have other naming ideas, I am open to your suggestions.

Before you even begin to think about the endless possibilities that my services would create, let me be absolutely clear on a few things. I **will not** act out any scenes that might be construed as offensive or obscene to the sensibilities of the average reasonable person. I **will not** use any profanity or excessive violence. This may make some texts off limits in this service, which is fine by me if it is fine by you. I don't want the OneManShow to become a joke among the local teenagers to see if they can trick me into showing my naughty bits in the middle of the public library. Let's just say I think Carl Monday already covered one too many stories of that nature on the Cleveland local news.

I also would limit my scope (at least initially) to fiction and historical books with an actual story line that you might see performed at a theater. I may later branch out into technical journals, reference materials, and that sort of thing, but not at the outset.

As I said, I am spending my spare time reading books, so I already have a number of volumes that I feel confident with. If I were to ever get an alert for a book that I am unfamiliar with, I would just read the back cover or liner notes and do an improvisation of that summary. But during the down time when nobody is making any OneManShow selections, I intend to spend all my time at the library reading new books that I can later act out.

If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please let me know what my pay scale might be. I am flexible and have no minimum salary requirements – other than minimum wage. But I think if you look into the increased patronage my service would bring, I am worth much more than that to you I am sure. I don't know what your ratio is of total books loaned to total overdue fines assessed, but I have to figure I will increase library revenue in that area just by 'selling' the stories to prospective book borrowers.

I may need an assistant to help with the costuming, but I would leave that up to you. Maybe you already have someone on staff who could assist in that area. I really wouldn't need a large wardrobe as a single costume could be adjusted to serve many different circumstances based on simple accessories and such. A simple bed sheet, for example, could be a Roman toga, a spooky ghost, a parachute for a paratrooper, a burial cloth, a picnic blanket, an angel gown. The possibilities are endless.

Please let me know if you have any time available to discuss this proposal further. I really think this can be a lucrative opportunity for your library and for me as well!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rusty Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rusty Lucas

p.s. Does the Chicago Public Library have any official library baseball caps that you sell in a gift shop or use as part of your employees' uniforms? If so, please send me a free Chicago Public Library baseball cap! I would really enjoy one!